

ABSTRACT

Message Signalling in a Synchronous Transmission Apparatus

5 The invention relates to message signalling in a synchronous transmission apparatus using redundant pointer bits as a signalling channel within the apparatus. The preferred embodiment uses one or more of the new data flag (NDF) pointer bits as a signalling channel. The invention
10 has particular, but not exclusive, application in the field of performance monitoring in a path protected telecommunications network, where the pointer bit signalling channel is used to communicate between data ports which transmission path is selected.